GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4194
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be invested in Bihar in the telecommunications sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the private sector and the multinational companies engaged in the field of telecommunications sector have expressed their interest to invest in the development of telecommunication facilities in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Ninth Five Year Plan does not include State-wise fund allocation. However, Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 46442.04 Crores for Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for the telecom sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d): Details of the companies for various telecom services in Bihar are as follows:

1. Cellular Mobile Telephone Service:- In Bihar Telecom Circle, licences for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) were given to M/s. Reliance Telecom (P) Limited (Effective date 12-12-1995) and M/s.Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. (Effective date 23-08-1996). Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited have also been given licence for CMTS to provide the cellular Service in Bihar.Government have also floated tenders to award licences for CMTS to fourth Cellular Operation in Telecom circles and fill up certain vacant slots to achieve faster growth and more competition in the field.

2.National Long Distance Service:-Licence for National Long Distance Service and Infrastructure Provider-II (IP II) and registration for Infrastructure Provider-I (IP I) are issued on non-exclusive basis within territorial jurisdiction of India and not circle wise.However, one company M/s Bihar Network Limited has been registered for IP-I.

3.Basic Service:- Three companies viz. M/s Aircel Digilink India Limited, M/s Reliance Communications Private Limited and M/s Tata Teleservices Limited have applied for licence for Basic Telephone Service in Bihar service area. Letter of Intent has been issued to M/s Reliance Communications Private Limited and M/s Tata Teleservices Limited.

4.Radio Paging Service:- Two companies M/s Easy Call Communications and M/s Beltron Telecom are providing Radio Paging Service in the city of Patna.

5.Internet Service:- Any of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) licensee having Service area `All India` (Category `A`) or ISP having service area `Bihar Telecom circle` (Category B) or any Secondary Switching Area (SSA) of Bihar (Category C) can provide Internet Services in Bihar. As on date there are 83 Category `A` ISP licences, I Category `B` ISP licence with service area `Bihar Telecom Circle` and 3 Category `C` ISP licences with service area as Patna SSA.

The following ISPs have started Internet Service in the State of Bihar apart from BSNL:-

(i) M/s Satyam Infoway Ltd (Category A ISP)

(ii) M/s Arun Girija Communication (Category C ISP for Patna SSA)

6.Any of the following 10 Commercial closed User Group Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) licensee can provide VSAT service in Bihar.

Sl. No.	Name of the company
1.	M/s HECL
2.	M/s RPG SCL
3.	M/s COMSAT MAX
4.	M/s BHARTI BTL
5.	M/s TELESTRA VCL
6.	M/s HFCL SCL
7	M/s HCL CSSL
8.	M/s ITI
9.	M/s ESCL
10.	M/s GNFC Ltd